

Statement of Charles B. Curtis

Acting Secretary of Energy

Committee on Commerce

Subcommittee on Energy and Power

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**Introduction**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss the FY 1998 budget request for the Department of Energy.

The President of the United States, in his State of the Union address to the Congress, spoke about our nation's responsibility to keep its commitments and to provide for the future. An important part of the commitments the President spoke about was the commitment to fiscal discipline -- a duty to balance that budget that we owe to future generations.

But we also owe a duty to future generations to maintain and refresh our nation's capacity for scientific and technological innovation and our capacity, therefore to shape the future through those means. It is for that reason a good part of the President's speech also spoke of an investment in science and technology.

These two themes, keeping commitments and providing for the future, are at the heart of the Department's vital missions. Those are, of course, enhancing our energy security in the face of forecast projections that shows a deepening of vulnerability to imports and an increasing concentration of the world's export capacity in the Persian Gulf OPEC nations, a region of the world that has been politically challenged and unstable throughout our lifetime. We hope to help

provide for the future by developing clean energy technologies; ensuring a safe and reliable nuclear weapons stockpile in the absence of nuclear testing; increasing domestic oil and gas production and diversifying our international sources of supply; reducing the global nuclear danger through our initiatives in the former Soviet Union and in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the permanent extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty; cleaning up former nuclear weapons sites, an important part of our commitments to present generations and future generations; and finding a more effective and timely path forward for disposing of nuclear wastes. And very importantly, we must commit to continue to leverage science and technology to advance fundamental knowledge and our country's capacity for innovation. When this department put together its strategic plan that we often depict this plan using a configuration of circles -- the center circle always represents science and technology. It is our core competency, our enabler to conduct our missions, a discrete mission in itself, and our central commitment to the future.

I would like to make a very important point about the department's budget which we will discuss today: this budget reflects the President's judgement about our vital missions, a confirmation that these are vital to providing for the future of this nation. The 104th Congress, which struggled so mightily with fiscal matters, increased this Department's budget over our request; and we see in our \$16.6 billion core budget request today an increase of some \$400 million over FY 97.

There are two additional special features of this year's budget. One, we are providing for a privatization of \$1 billion in the environmental management program. This will equip the Department with budget authority so that we can invite private sector provision of services and facilities, taking advantage of the opportunity to energize the private sector, to reduce our

landlord mortgages, and to provide better services at lower costs than we have historically been able to provide.

Second, we are seeking an additional \$1.6 billion in budget authority to provide for the upfront funding of construction projects. This has the virtue of giving the Congress better cost information before it commits to these projects and will help avoid cost overruns, so prevalent in the current system of annual, incremental funding.

Finally, the Department of Energy has contributed to the President's budget deficit plan by privatizing functions, realigning its workforce and undertaking the first comprehensive review of the national Laboratories. At the Department of Energy, strategic planning and performance-based budgeting have been underway since the beginning of the Clinton Administration. By stressing these disciplines, this year's budget request, for the first time, contains a Performance Plan. The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 requires that, beginning with the FY 1999 budget submission, budgets be the outcome of a strategic planning process and contain performance-based results for proposed spending requests. We are pleased to provide the Congress, a year in advance of the legislated requirement, a budget that begins to implement the provisions of GPRA, and manages for results.

### **Investments for a Better Future**

The Department's FY 1998 budget proposal will put DOE on a clear path forward to carry out the Department's important missions and to do so more efficiently and creatively . As we move forward, we are very much aware of the significant challenges and opportunities that we face.

Addressing the challenges and proactively engaging the opportunities will require a partnership with you, the Congress, with industry, and with our customers and stakeholders. The following areas are considered high Department of Energy priorities:

- ❖ Further Technological Advances to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil
- ❖ Develop Climate Change Policy in Cooperation With Other Nations
- ❖ Advance the Restructuring of the Electricity Industry
- ❖ Demonstrate the Effectiveness of the Stockpile Stewardship Program
- ❖ Protect Against the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism
- ❖ Support Global requirements for Sustainable Energy Sources and Promote Markets for U.S. Technologies
- ❖ Continue to Demonstrate the Value of Basic Science and Applied Technologies
- ❖ Continue to Develop Partnerships With Industry and Academia in Research and Development
- ❖ Continue to Clean Up the Environmental Legacy of the Cold War
- ❖ Continue to Protect the Health and Safety of DOE Workers and Communities Surrounding Our Sites

### **FY 1998 Budget Overview**

The Department of Energy's FY 1998 budget should be considered in two parts: 1) the Department's core budget of \$16.6 billion and; 2) a request for additional FY 98 budget authority for obligation or spending out in future years.

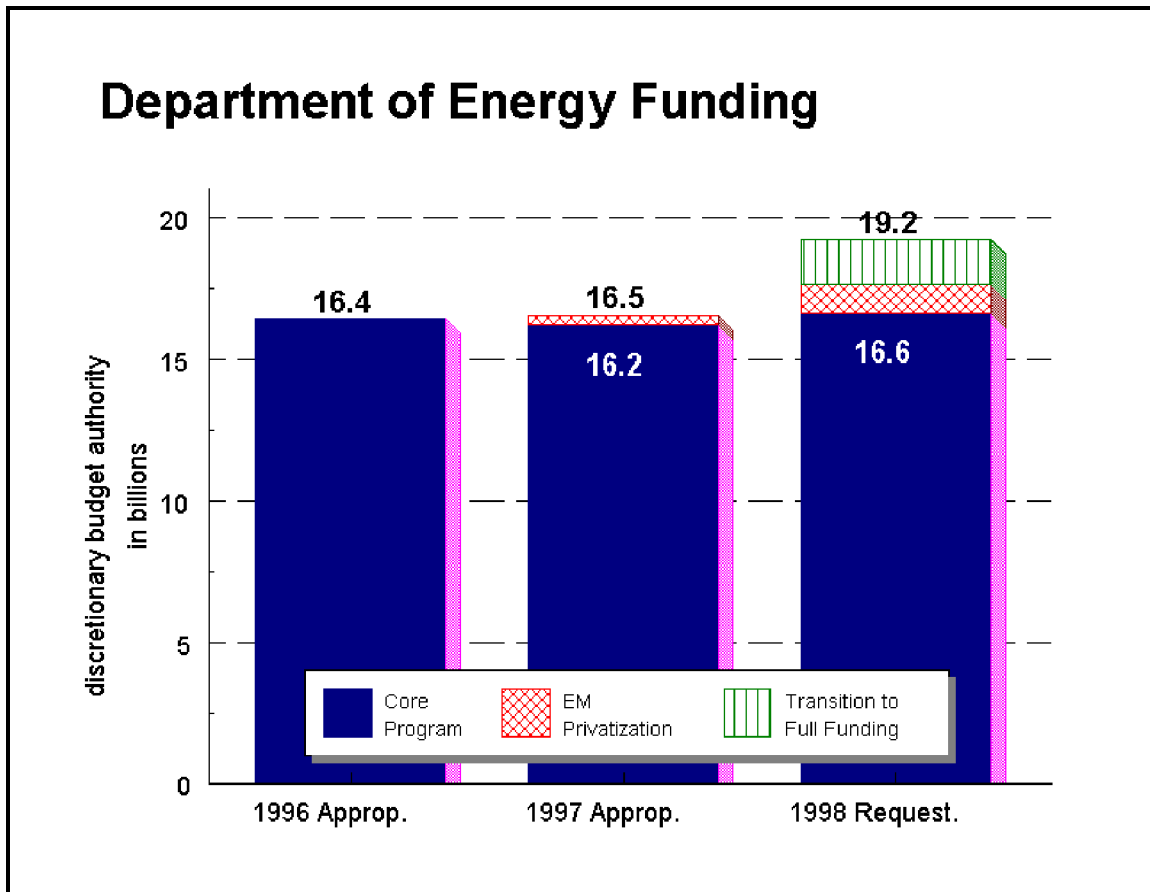
The DOE's FY 98 request for its core budget of \$16.6 billion, is 2.6 percent more than FY 97 levels. The budget involves many changes, both up and down, but the net increase can be viewed as funding for certain priorities including accelerated environmental cleanup at urban radioactive waste sites; non-proliferation programs; stockpile stewardship initiatives, including startup of the National Ignition Facility (NIF); the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI); and additional energy efficiency and renewable energy research and development.

The Department's FY 98 request includes \$2.6 billion in budget authority over and above that required for DOE's core budget. Of this additional budget authority, \$1.6 billion will be used to forward-fund construction projects. Tthe remaining \$1.0 billion in additional BA will provide the necessary contracting authority to pay for, in the future, the actual delivery of services contracted for under agreements developed as part of the Department's Environmental Management Privatization Program. Virtually all of the additional budget authority for construction and privatization will be spent in the outyears, with no appreciable effect on FY 98 outlays.

Seeking one time budget authority for construction projects will enable the Department to adopt the procedures currently used in many other agencies, namely the requirement of up-front funding for construction projects, rather than requesting the funds incrementally each year. This change will require that \$1.6 billion in budget authority be added to the FY 1998 request. This does not represent an increase over what DOE otherwised intended to spend in FY 98. The actual expenditures, or outlays, will not change as a consequence of this increase in BA.

In FY 97, the Congress approved \$330 million to start the Environmental Managment Privatization Program; our FY 98 request represents a continutation of this commitment. The

objective of the EM Privatization Program is straightforward: to reduce cleanup costs and environmental and health hazards by accelerating cleanup. To accomplish this goal, the Department intends to contract with private parties who construct facilities with private sector money to deliver cleanup services in later years, when the Department will pay for those services, if and when they meet their contractual obligations. The budget authority serves as “good faith” of the government’s intention to pay for services delivered at a later date, and provides assurance of government funding if it should cancel a project before the services are provided. Without this authority, the government could not enter into long-term contracts with private sector companies to assume the responsibility to finance and construct facilities to process nuclear waste materials into a form suitable for storage and disposal. This privatized approach is also being applied to other key cleanup projects including deactivation and decommissioning of nuclear facilities that are costly to maintain. Although the privatization funds are required to proceed with the contracts, outlays will not result until later fiscal years when the private sector delivers acceptable services.



### Funding to Accomplish DOE's Strategic Objectives

At the beginning of the Clinton Administration, the Department initiated changes in the way we do business. Recognizing that taxpayers now expect more from government programs and hold agencies more accountable for superior results with fewer resources, we now measure program performance from the customer's perspective. The emphasis is on results. We have defined our missions, established key goals, and identified strategic objectives.

To accomplish our key goals and to fulfill the Department's missions, programs are organized along four business lines. The business lines and their strategic objectives are:

Energy Resources: Ensure secure supplies of clean, affordable energy resources through research and development, maintenance of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and reduction of adverse environmental impacts associated with energy production, delivery, and use.

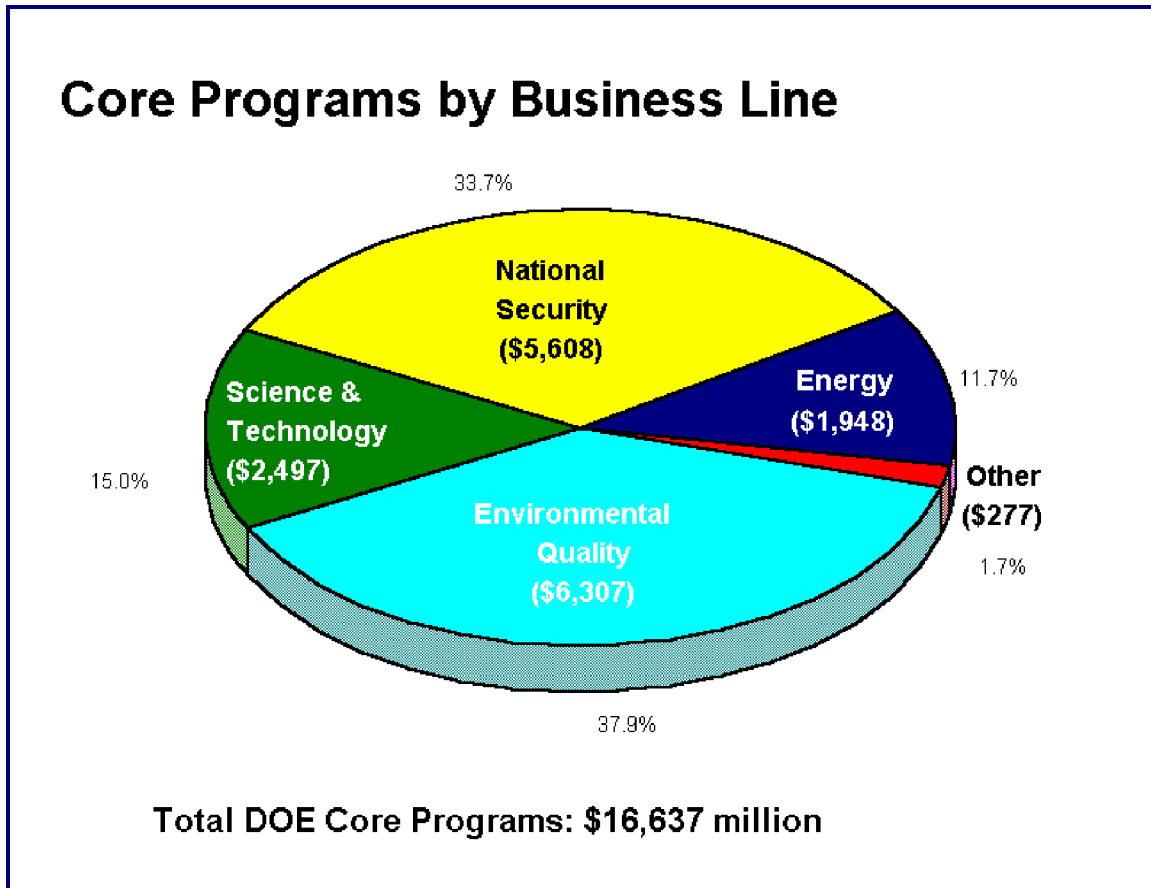
National Security: Provide the technical foundation and path-breaking science to ensure the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons arsenal without underground testing that supports a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and stem the international spread of nuclear weapons materials and ensure the safety of nuclear power plants and other sites in Russia, and other former Soviet States.

Environmental Quality: Make progress in the disposal of civilian and military nuclear spent fuel and high-level waste; and continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the cleanup of former nuclear weapons production sites.

Science and Technology: Preserve our Nation's scientific leadership and strengthen our economic competitiveness through the enhanced and efficient use of vast scientific resources available in our national laboratories, university laboratories, and private industry.

These objectives drive the allocation decisions reflected in the Department's FY 1998 budget request. They are also the template against which each and every program is measured before decisions are made on appropriate funding levels. In short, the strategic objectives, and their accomplishment, are the basis by which we are prepared to be measured as a Federal agency. The FY 1998 budget represents the policy objectives and associated deliverables that can, and will, be used by the President, Congress and the American people to judge the performance of the

Department of Energy. Accomplishment of these objectives is essential for the Nation's continued vitality as we move into the next century.



In the next section, I would like to present the budget highlights for each of the Department's business lines. I have taken the liberty of beginning with Energy Resources which includes our Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program, Fossil Energy Program, Nuclear Energy Program, and our Power Marketing Administrations.

## **Energy Resources: Secure Supplies of Clean, Affordable Energy**

### Energy Resources Priorities

The Clinton Administration's energy policy has three strategic goals:

*Maximize Energy Productivity* to strengthen our economy and improve living standards. Getting more out of the energy we use will keep costs of energy services such as light, heat, and mobility at levels that our citizens can afford and at which our businesses can thrive. And as we develop new technologies to increase energy productivity, we can seize global market opportunities in technology exports, creating high-paying jobs and improving the nation's balance of trade.

*Prevent Pollution* to reduce the adverse environmental impacts associated with energy production, delivery, and use. Americans cherish a clean environment, and we have made tremendous strides in improving the quality of our land, air, and water. However, as U.S. and global energy needs grow, we must continue to press for more cost-effective and less polluting ways to produce and use energy and explore new approaches to reduce environmental risks, keep our economy strong, and maintain our global leadership in protecting the environment.

*Keep America Secure* by reducing our exposure to events beyond our control. The United States depends on reliable and competitively priced energy supplies to fuel stable economic growth. However, our economy relies on oil for 40 percent of our energy needs, which are being met increasingly by potentially unstable sources of world oil supply. While existing energy policy and

improved macroeconomic policies can help reduce the economic harm from supply disruptions, our economy continues to be vulnerable to oil price shocks.

Helping guard against energy supply disruptions and their associated threats to the United States remains a fundamental priority of the Department of Energy. To achieve this, the Department continues its pursuit of energy technology development, and the market penetration of these technologies. Our energy technology programs recognize the need to maximize energy productivity, strengthen and improve living standards, prevent pollution and reduce the adverse environmental impacts associated with energy production, delivery and use. The key energy resource objectives driving the Department's FY 1998 budget request are:

- ❖ Reducing U.S. vulnerability to energy supply disruptions;
- ❖ Developing renewable domestic energy;
- ❖ Designing and delivering cars of the future;
- ❖ Improving efficiency in energy intensive industries;
- ❖ Implementing the Climate Change Action Plan;
- ❖ Fostering energy efficient buildings and communities for the 21st Century;
- ❖ Increasing U.S. energy technology exports and investments;
- ❖ Boosting the Nation's production of natural gas and oil;
- ❖ Providing a new option to supplement the Nation's liquid fuels;
- ❖ Developing the clean, high efficiency power plant for the 21st Century;
- ❖ Maximizing the value of Federal oil fields;
- ❖ Developing technologies to address the aging of nuclear power plants;
- ❖ Developing technologies to reduce generation of spent nuclear fuel;

- ❖ Ensuring the availability of isotopes for industry, research, and health care;
- ❖ Providing radioisotope power systems for U.S. space exploration;
- ❖ Operating DOE test and research reactors safely and effectively.

### Energy Resources Funding

The Department is requesting a total of \$1,947.7 million for its core energy resource programs plus \$22.3 million for the transition to full construction funding. The request for core energy resource programs is predicated on the need to maintain a diverse portfolio of energy supply and energy efficiency related research and development.

The Department's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs are founded on the productivity, cost reduction, national security, and environmental benefits of flexible, non-mandatory Federal actions in support of greater efficiency. The programs in this area carry out the Department's responsibility under the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and other major pieces of authorizing legislation. The benefits of these programs to industries, homeowners and commercial firms can be measured in reduced pollution, cost savings, productivity gains, and the creation of new jobs.

The FY 1998 budget request contains a net increase of \$216.6 million, which reflects the President's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. An increase of \$40.0 million is proposed for the Climate Change Action Plan programs which contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas and other emissions while lowering the energy bills of consumers and businesses. These programs also support deployment partnerships and collaboratives with the

private sector to address key technology and market barriers, and promote U.S. energy technology leadership in both the domestic and international markets.

An increase of \$18.3 million is proposed to support the President's Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles to maximize vehicle fuel economies in the 21st Century. The primary goal is to develop pre-production prototype vehicles without compromises in safety, performance, or affordability. In the short and mid-terms the goals are to demonstrate the doubling of light duty vehicle fuel economy by the year 2001 and demonstrate the tripling of fuel economy during the years 2005-2010.

An increase of \$75.3 million is proposed for renewable energy and other utility technologies, including superconductivity research. The primary goal is to continue lowering the cost of photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy to help keep electricity costs low while reducing pollution.

Additionally, an increase of \$41.3 million is requested to support energy related State grants programs, which help to leverage other State, private and local funding. The Weatherization Assistance Program provides cost-effective energy conservation services by partnering with State and local service organizations to perform energy audits and to weatherize homes of the elderly and low-income residents. The State Energy Program allows States added flexibility through a consolidated grant program to deliver energy services and support market acceptance of energy efficiency technologies.

The Civilian Nuclear Energy program as well as the Fossil Energy Research and Development program are important to our National energy strategy, which recognizes the importance of having a diversity of energy resources. The Nuclear Energy Research and Development budget in FY 1998 reflects a major shift in the Department's nuclear energy programs. The Nuclear Energy Security program will address the technical issues associated with 109 aging nuclear power plants that provide about 22 percent of the Nation's electricity. These plants represent a \$200 billion investment by electric ratepayers and provide reliable baseload power without emitting harmful pollutants such as those associated with global climate change. This new initiative will focus on research and development in nuclear power plant safety, reliability, and performance and will apply unique DOE capabilities to develop technologies to reduce the generation of spent fuel and reduce the costs associated with the storage, transportation and disposal of spent nuclear fuel in the United States. An additional benefit will be our increased support (to a total program of \$12.3 million) for nuclear energy and engineering research at universities and colleges across the country.

A significant change in this year's budget is the Administration's decision that revenues from the sale of excess uranium will no longer be used to offset the Department's budget request but instead will be deposited directly into the General Fund at the U.S. Treasury. Uranium Programs will continue to implement the lease agreement with the U.S. Enrichment Corporation and manage non-leased facilities at the gaseous diffusion plants; monitor Russian conversion of highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium; and manage depleted uranium hexafluoride inventories.

Another key activity funded in FY 1998 is the Isotope program, which ensures the continued production of isotopes necessary for medical, industrial and research purposes. This program will receive increased funding to modify key facilities at Sandia National Laboratories to establish a domestic production capability for the vital medical isotope molybdenum-99. The Nuclear Energy program will support the advancement of science in FY 1998 by enhancing its capability to construct long-lived, highly durable nuclear power sources required for the exploration of space.

The budget request for the Fossil Energy program recognizes that nearly 85% of the Nation's energy is currently supplied by coal, oil and natural gas. With the contribution of these fuels projected to increase in coming years, the Department's Fossil Energy program focuses its funding primarily on ways to ensure continued environmental protection and enhance our domestic oil security.

Research and development of new natural gas- and coal-fired electric power technologies can significantly reduce carbon dioxide and acid rain emissions while keeping electricity costs affordable. The FY 1998 budget moves into the final phases of development for several advanced electric power technologies, including low emission boilers, advanced generation fuel cells and ultra-high efficiency gas turbines, culminating a decade or more and several hundred million dollars of prior public and private sector investment. DOE's support for these 21st century technologies is becoming increasingly important as the U.S. industry, confronted by the uncertainties of restructuring, continues to cut back financing of longer-range, higher-risk R&D, while at the same time demand for new and cleaner sources of electricity rapidly increases throughout much of the world.

The FY 1998 budget request also recognizes that U.S. demand for clean-burning natural gas could increase significantly in the next decade, particularly in the electric power generation market. The proposed budget maintains a major effort to ensure that adequate and affordable gas supplies can continue to be produced to meet this rising demand. New exploration and production technologies, such as innovative imaging and improved fracturing techniques, can help the U.S. expand its natural gas production, particularly from difficult, low-permeability formations that are currently beyond the capabilities of today's technology.

The Fossil Energy FY 1998 budget also supports several efforts to ensure greater domestic oil security, particularly in light of rising imports. As a near-term response to a potential oil supply disruption, the FY 1998 budget maintains the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at 563 million barrels through FY 2001, respecting our international responsibilities and providing a powerful tool to blunt oil shortages. For the longer-term, the budget continues research and development into new oil exploration, production and processing technologies that can lower costs and boost domestic oil supplies, particularly from properties owned by smaller independent producers. The budget also maintains research into alternatives to conventional petroleum, including technologies to produce high-quality liquid fuels from natural gas and from coal.

In FY 1998, the Department proposes a rescission of \$153.0 million and a deferral of \$133.0 million from unobligated balances in the Clean Coal Technology Program. The Department has signed cost-sharing commitments for all projects in the program. Several of the current 40 projects are being restructured, therefore a portion of the previously appropriated funding can be returned to the Treasury without endangering the success of this program. The FY 1998 request also assumes that the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve will be divested on schedule in February,

1998, and accordingly proposes sufficient funding to provide for just over seven months of operations and a three-month transition period.

Additionally, the Department proposes to sell the Alaska Power Administration (two projects) in FY 1998 for an estimated total of \$85.0 million. The completed sale of the Eklutna project is expected by November, 1997, and the Snettisham project sale is expected to be completed in August, 1998. The proceeds of these sales will be deposited in the U.S. Treasury and do not score as savings against the Department's budget request.

## **National Security: Reducing the Nuclear Danger**

### National Security Priorities

The Department's defense laboratories and production facilities are the Nation's repository of nuclear weapons-related knowledge and engineering capability. This unique and irreplaceable resource helped win World War II and the Cold War and continues to ensure our National security and reduce the nuclear danger. The key National security objectives driving the Department's FY 1998 budget request include:

- ❖ Maintaining the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile;
- ❖ Reducing the weapons stockpile and downsizing the nuclear weapons complex;
- ❖ Replacing underground testing with science based techniques;
- ❖ Developing a replacement source of tritium;
- ❖ Making more information available to the public;

- ❖ Limiting weapons-usable fissile materials worldwide;
- ❖ Establishing transparent and irreversible nuclear reductions worldwide;
- ❖ Controlling nuclear exports;
- ❖ Enhancing the Safety of Soviet-Designed Reactors and assisting in the shutdown of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

### National Security Funding

The \$6.6 billion requested for National security programs includes \$1.0 billion required to transition to full construction funding. This request supports activities to ensure a safe and reliable nuclear stockpile without testing, continues safe dismantlement of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and fights terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The FY 1998 core program request for National security programs is an increase of 3.8% from the FY 1997 enacted level. The growth in this area represents our efforts to build the facilities and develop the necessary capabilities to meet our strategic National security objectives. It provides for full funding of the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. This facility is critical to the assurance of a viable nuclear stockpile without underground testing. It is designed to produce, for the first time in a laboratory setting, conditions of temperature and density of matter close to those that occur during the detonation of nuclear weapons. The Department proposes expansion of our work to ensure the capability to produce tritium, an essential component of nuclear weapons. Within Stockpile Stewardship, the Department will maintain momentum recently achieved in operating the world's fastest super computer through the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI).

In FY 1998, the Department also proposes to continue our work with the former Soviet Union to manage nuclear materials, and recognizes new responsibilities to reduce the threat of chemical and biological weapons proliferation.

## **Environmental Quality: Accelerating Progress, Meeting Commitments**

### Environmental Quality Priorities

The Department is taking an aggressive approach to address the immediate and long-term environmental and health risks of the Department's former weapons production complex, and resolve the issues surrounding spent nuclear fuel storage. The key environmental quality objectives driving the Department's FY 1998 budget request include:

- ❖ Making progress on the treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive wastes;
- ❖ Reducing the risks of cleaning up nuclear weapons sites;
- ❖ Preventing future pollution;
- ❖ Finding solutions to spent nuclear fuel storage;
- ❖ Eliminating serious health, safety and environmental vulnerabilities.

### Environmental Quality Funding

The Department is making measurable progress in identifying and addressing the highest human health, safety, and environmental risks within the Department of Energy complex. The acceleration of the cleanup of former weapons sites is being accomplished by working

cooperatively with the States and through improved contracting, technology development and risk management. In addition, the Department is making progress toward an answer to some of the most critical questions in the area of long-term nuclear waste disposal.

The need for a nuclear waste repository is one of the most daunting technical and political problems. This effort has been plagued by the inability to answer with confidence the fundamental question on the suitability of Yucca Mountain for long-term nuclear waste disposal. Now the government is on the verge of answering this most basic question. The \$380.0 million requested for the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management program will further improve our knowledge of Yucca Mountain and provide in 1998 the scientific basis to determine its viability as a disposal site.

The FY 1998 budget request for programs within the Office of Environment, Safety, and Health continues the program's commitment to the Radiation Effects Research Foundation just below the FY 1997 level, and proposes \$44.2 million for Health Studies, which reflects the reorganization of several epidemiological activities within the non-defense portion of the Energy Supply Research and Development appropriation.

The FY 1998 Environmental Management budget request has three components: \$5,595.6 million for traditional activities; \$645.0 million for asset acquisition; and \$1,006.0 million for privatization efforts. The significant difference from the FY 1997 appropriation is an increased emphasis on privatization and the Administration's commitment to full up-front funding for construction line-items (included in the Asset Acquisition accounts). The request provides a sufficient level of funding to comply with the provisions of Executive Order 12088, to address all urgent risks, and

meet Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) recommendations to the maximum extent possible. It also provides for the accelerated completion of cleanup activities associated with the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The request will enable the program to reduce outyear mortgage costs and continue to accelerate the closure of sites.

The FY 1998 budget request for Environmental Management programs builds on prior investments and emphasizes compliance, fixed asset acquisition, privatization, and continues efforts to develop and implement the ten-year plan to complete remediation at many of the program's sites within a decade. With these new tools and improved cost management, we can now develop and implement a program plan that will focus on completing remedial actions at many of our sites over the next decade.

## **Science and Technology: Ideas Creating Jobs, Products and Industries for Tomorrow**

### Science and Technology Priorities

The Department is one of the Nation's top supporters of fundamental science research across a broad range of disciplines, including physics, materials science, chemistry, nuclear medicine and structural biology. Advances in science and technology have provided the long-term basis for economic growth, job creation, and improving our quality of life. The science and technology objectives driving the Department's FY 1998 budget request include:

- ❖ Maintaining improved services delivery at DOE science facilities;
- ❖ Initiating science-based programs to find new methods for environmental cleanup;

- ❖ Exploring the frontiers of High Energy Physics;
- ❖ Investigating the causes of global climate change;
- ❖ Restructuring the Fusion Energy Research program;
- ❖ Advancing the state of the art in high performance computing;
- ❖ Expanding access to global science through the information infrastructure, including the “Next Generation Internet”;
- ❖ Advancing the state of genomic research.

### Science and Technology Funding

The Department is requesting \$2,497 million for core science and technology programs plus \$40 million to transition to full construction funding. The request will continue the pursuit of science, which has resulted in more than 60 Nobel Prizes and served more than 15,000 scientists each year from hundreds of universities, Federal laboratories and private sector companies in all 50 States.

This budget proposes the design of the National Spallation Neutron Source, continues our international collaboration in the Large Hadron Collider, maintains our core fusion energy science program, and supports high profile initiatives in global climate change, human genome, and bioremediation. In addition, the Department requests \$35.0 million as part of an Administration-wide initiative to advance the capabilities of the Internet to meet the challenges of the future.

### **Conclusion**

The Department of Energy's FY 1998 Budget Request and Performance Plan is an implementation of our strategic objectives and provides the Congress and the American people

with information on the real results we propose to achieve. While this testimony has not provided details of every program contained in our FY 1998 request, the details can be found in the Department's budget justification documents which have been submitted to the Committee.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak before you today and look forward to addressing any issues or questions you may have.